Promoting food processing industries in U.P.

†3528. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy to promote setting up of food processing industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of food processing industries provided Central assistance during the last three years till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMEMT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of Processed Food Sector in the country. Under the Plan Schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI), financial assistance is extended to Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Industries, Human Resources Development and Research and Development Institutions etc., for the development of this sector. The schemes are project oriented and not State or area specific.

(c) Financial assistance under the plan schemes of the Department has been extended to 18 food processing projects received from Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, apart from extending assistance for training programmes and setting up of Food Analysis and Research Centre.

Agriculture Universities

†3529. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of agriculture universities in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to set up more agriculture universities and agricultural and research councils in the country, for development of agriculture;

(c) whether Government also propose to accord the status of Central Agriculture University and Agricultural Research Council to Tirhut Agriculture College, Dholi, Muzaffarpur; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.